

recorded as the fledgelings were not followed.

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June 8, 1990

LALITHA VIJAYAN

16. WINTERING RANGE EXTENSION FOR THE RUBYTHROAT
ERITHACUS CALLIOPE

| Place of ringing | Wing (mm) | Bill (mm) | Tarsus (mm) | Tail (mm) | Weight (g) |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Tirumala Hills | 73 | 16 | 28 | 62 | 20 |
| Point Calimere | 76 | 19 | 29 | 63 | 23 |

The rubythroat *Erithacus calliope* is an uncommon winter visitor to the Indian subcontinent, mostly to its north-eastern and eastern parts. In south India they are known to reach only up to Godavari delta in north-eastern Andhra Pradesh where they are fairly common only in Hailakandi and Visakhapatnam (17° 30'N, 83° E) districts (HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, Ali, S. and Ripley, S.D. 1983).

A male rubythroat was trapped and ringed on 3 February 1990 at Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary (10° 18' N; 79° 52' E) in Tamil Nadu. This is the first confirmed record of rubythroat for the state and the southern most record. It is interesting to

note that another male rubythroat was ringed at Tirumala Hills (13° 40' N, 79°20 E) in southern Andhra Pradesh on 21 November 1989 and even that was further south to its known wintering range in India. Since the birds were caught in November and February it is quite likely that the species is not just a passage migrant but a sporadic winter visitor to south India as well.

The measurements (mm) and weight (g) of the birds are as shown above.

S. BALACHANDRAN
LIMA ROSALIND
S. ALAGAR RAJAN

March 29, 1990

17. PLUMAGES, FEMALE DIMORPHISM AND POLYMORPHISM OF THE
ENDEMIC INDIAN SPECIES *PARUS XANTHOGENYS*

(With a colour plate)

There appears to be some confusion and controversy regarding the plumages of the *Parus xanthogenys* group. A black crest and a longitudinal black band from chin to vent, is usually described as being the adult plumage common to both sexes. Whistler and Kinnear (1931, *JBNHS* 35: 520) examined the series collected by La Personne and reported an interesting problem regarding the plumages of this genus. 15 males agreed with the description, but the three females and an unsexed bird differed in having the black ventral band replaced by dull olive green. They concluded that either the sexes differ or the bird takes a year to assume adult plumage. After examining the Eastern

Ghats survey birds they stated that the peninsular Indian race *aplonotus* and the Western Ghats race *travancoreensis* have their sexes different. They described three types of females for the race *travancoreensis*. 1. Black head and black band, 2. Black head and green band and 3. Green head and green band.

Salim Ali (1940, *JBNHS* 41: 86) says the females were dimorphic in *aplonotus*. Phase 1. crown and eye-streak black, ventral stripe dull olive green; Phase 2. crown and eye-streak dull olive green, ventral stripe dull olive green. For *travancoreensis*, he said adult male and female were not alike. Male: crown black, ventral stripe black. Female: crown